

Somerset, PA

NS

290-305X



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

www.dot.state.pa.us

P.O. Box 2777

Harrisburg, PA 17105-2777

August 27, 2008

Surface Transportation Board
Section of Environmental Analysis
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: Norfolk Southern Railway Company Abandonment in Somerset
County, Pennsylvania (STB Docket No. AB-290 (Sub-No. 305X))

Dear Sir or Madam:

The PennDOT Bureau of Rail Freight, Ports and Waterways is in receipt of a July 31, 2008 letter from Ms. Kathy Headrick, Coordinator-Abandonments, Norfolk Southern Corporation (NS), Strategic Planning Department, requesting that the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) review the Environmental Report enclosed with their letter and forward any comments to the Surface Transportation Board's (STB) Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA). The Environmental Report was prepared in connection with NS's proposed abandonment (see above referenced STB docket) of its 1.80 mile rail line located between milepost QS 14.40 and milepost QS 16.20 in Somerset County, PA.

Ms. Headrick's letter and the Environmental Report were forwarded to PennDOT Engineering District 9-0, which has jurisdiction for the area in which the line of railroad being proposed for abandonment is situated. In addition, the Environmental Report was also reviewed by PennDOT Bureau of Design, Environmental Quality Assurance Division (EQAD).

PennDOT recommends that, if it has not already done so, the STB should consult with the State Historical Preservation Officer-PA Historical Museum Commission (SHPO) regarding Sec. 106. PennDOT does have concerns regarding the public highway-rail crossings on this line and trusts that the crossings will be abolished in an appropriate manner and with the approval of the PA Public Utility Commission. Also, PennDOT District Engineering District 9-0 provided the following additional comment: Referencing Section 49 CFR 1105.7(e)(3) Land use: The location is incorrectly referred to as being in "Somerset County, Ohio"; this needs to be changed to read "Somerset County, Pennsylvania".

Should you have any questions or if we may be of any further assistance to you regarding this matter, please contact Tom Stettler of my staff at (717) 772-2637 or e-mail tstettler@state.pa.us.

Sincerely,

Denise L. Pyers
Director
Bureau of Rail Freight, Ports & Waterways

8200/DLP/THS

cc: Kathy Headrick, Norfolk Southern Corporation
Gary Fawver, P.E., Bureau of Design, 7th Flr., CKB
Gina M. D'Alfonso, Office of Chief Counsel, 9th Flr., CKB
Thomas A. Prestash, P.E., District Executive 9-0
BRFPW File

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Environmental Reports\NSabandonment Somerset County AB290(305X) PennDOT Comments on ER to
STB.doc